APPENDIX I
Marked-up Version of Amended Claims

1.   (four times amended) A method for processing a transport stream comprising a plurality of time slots for transporting therein respective programs having a common time base indicated by [a] periodically inserted time stamps, said method comprising:

modifying packets associated with a desired time slot of a received transport stream to produce an output transport stream; and

transmitting said output transport stream; wherein

said transmitted output transport stream includes respective modified programs having said common time base indicated by said [the same] periodically inserted time stamps provided by said received transport stream.

7.   (three times amended) An apparatus for processing a received transport stream comprising N time slots for transporting therein N respective programs having a common time base indicated by [a] periodically inserted time stamps, where N is an integer greater than one, said apparatus comprising:

a transport clock source [CLK];

a frequency divider for dividing a timing signal [CLK] from said transport clock source into N timing signals;

N transport encoders coupled to said frequency divider for respectively receiving and encoding said N programs; and

a multiplexer, coupled to an output of said N transport encoders, for receiving and modifying packets associated with a desired time slot of one or more transport encoded program streams, said multiplexer producing a processed transport stream, wherein said processed transport stream includes respective modified programs having said common time base indicated by said [the same] periodically inserted time stamps provided by said received transport stream.

12.   (two times amended) Apparatus for processing a received transport stream comprising a plurality of time slots for transporting therein a respective plurality of

programs having a common time base indicated by [a] periodically inserted time stamps, said apparatus comprising:

a transport clock source;

a frequency divider, for dividing a transport clock timing signal from said transport clock source into a plurality of timing signals; and

a plurality of encoders, each of said encoders coupled to said frequency divider for respectively receiving and encoding said plurality of programs to produce a respective encoded program stream, each of said encoded program streams being coupled to a switch via a respective buffer memory;

said switch selectively coupling program stream transport packets from said buffer memories for modifying packets associated with a desired time slot to produce a slotted transport stream, wherein said slotted transport stream includes respective modified programs having said common time base indicated by said [the same] periodically inserted time stamps provided by said received transport stream.